

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

SSO-00 FBO-02 SCS-03 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00

H-02 INR-07 L-03 OC-05 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01

SCA-01 A-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06

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R 190830Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7416

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0597

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PIN, YE

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO HAMDI

SUMMARY: YARG FOCUSES ON MOUJAHID ABU SHUWARIB AFTER
BOMBINGS OCCUR IN SANAA. NUMEROUS ARRESTS BEING MADE.

1. ON NIGHTS OF 13-16 FEBRUARY BOMBINGS OCCURRED IN SANAA,
APPARENTLY INVOLVING LANDMINES IN SOME CASES. ONE INJURY,
VERY LIMITED PROPERTY DAMAGE HAS RESULTED, BUT SANAA BADLY
RATTLED BY BOTH SOUND OF DETONATIONS AND INABILITY SECURITY TO
PREVENT PLACEMENT OR ARREST CULPRITS. ON 16 FEBRUARY, FOR
INSTANCE, FOUR BOMBS BLE UP WITH NO ARRESTS.

2. NEXT NIGHT, FEBRUARY 17, VERY RPT VERY HEAVY SECURITY
IN AND AROUND CITY APPARENTLY ALLOWED ARREST OF SOME SABOTEURS
NEAR AIRPORT. ALSO, ACCORDING YAHYA GAGHMAN, HAND GRENADE DIS-
COVERED IN ELECTRIC COMPANY IN POSITION TO PUT OUT MAIN
GENERATOR.

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3. MININT INSISTS THERE NO RPT NO DANGER TO EMBASSIES, AND WE

AGREE, BUT GIVEN EXTREME ZEALOUSNESS OF SECURITY FORCES, WE HAVE WARNED AMERICANS TO PROCEED WITH PARTICULAR CAUTION AFTER DARK.

4. LARGE NUMBER AND WIDE VARIETY OF ARRESTS MADE HAVE BEEN MADE RECENTLY AND REPORTED SEPARATELY. SEE SANAA 427 AMONG OTHER REPORTS.

5. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTS THAT YAR PRESIDENT HAMDİ AND INTELLIGENCE CHIEF KHAMIS PUT BLAME FOR BOMBINGS SQUARELY ON MOUJAHİB ABU SUWARİB. JAGHMAN CONFIRMS THIS VIEW. BOTH SAY LINK HAS BEEN MADE ON BASIS OF INTERROGATION REPORTS OF SOME ARRESTEES. BOTH ALSO SAY THAT ABDALLA BIN HUSSAIN AL AHMAR, WHO IS ILL BUT IN KHAMER WITH MOUJAHİD, HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN IMPLICATED IN RECENT SUBVERSION. RIGHTIST ABDAL MALİK TAYYİB APPEARS TO BE IN KHAMER TOO, HOWEVER, AND VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES. JAGHMAN SAYS MOUJAHİD HAS TAKEN ONCE AGAIN TO DISTRIBUTING CIRCULARS DENOUNCING HAMDİ REGIME, STOPPING CARS GOING NORTH TO SAADA, AND HIJACKING GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES.

6. JAGHMAN, WITHOUT GIVING DETAILS, REPEATEDLY SAID YARG WAS PLANNING TO "TAKE CARE" OF MOUJAHİD.

7. IT IS INTERESTING THAT NOT RPT NOT ALL OF OPPOSITION SPRINGS FROM MOUJAHİD, (SEE FOR INSTANCE SANAA 427) AND, MOREOVER, FOREIGN SUPPORT SEEMS TO BE LIMITED. JAGHMAN SAYS VERY FIRMLY FOR INSTANCE, THAT SAUDIS ARE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE BEHIND HAMDİ, AND NOT RPT NOT GIVING COVERT AID OR ENCOURAGEMENT TO MOUJAHİD OR ANYONE ELSE. JAGHMAN WENT ON TO SAY YARG BELIEVES NOW THAT SAUDIS WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT MEN LIKE ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN ARE PERSONALLY SECURE AND WELL-OFF, BUT ARE NOT RPT NOT PUSHING FOR ANY OF "REFORMS" AND APPOINTMENTS WHICH ABDALLAH HAS ESPOUSED.

8. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS CONTINUING RUMOR OF IRAQI HELP, PARTICULARLY IN CASE OF OPPOSITION REPORTED IN SANAA 427.. THIS IS POSSIBLE, BUT SADAM HUSSEIN IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT
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YEMEN SHORTLY -- AFTER NEW IRAQI AID PROGRAM HERE ANNOUNCED -- AND TIMING OF SUBVENTIONS FOR CONSPIRATORS, IF TRUE, IS HIGHLY INOPPORTUNE.

9. MOREOVER, SOME OF RECENT ARRESTS OF OFFICERS ARE FOR EMBEZZLEMENT. THIS REFLECTS A CURIOUS, VERY YEMENI ASPECT TO PRESENT DISCONTENT. YARG HAS RECENTLY TRIED, AS PART OF GENERAL PROGRAM OF BUDGET CONTROLS, TO

LOOK INTO ARMY PAY. RESULTS HAVE BEEN ASTONISHING. ABDAL KARIM AL IRYANI, SHAKING HIS HEAD, SAID FUNDS ARE APPROPRIATED FOR DEFENSE ON ASSUMPTION THAT 40,000 MEN SERVE IN MILITARY. HE THINKS ABOUT HALF THAT NUMBER ARE ACTUALLY IN PLACE, AND POINTS TO SPOT SURVEY DONE OF REGIMENT IN DHAMAR, WHERE OVER 1,000 MEN WERE MISSING, MOSTLY DUE TO EMIGRATION TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR WORK. PAYROLLS HAVE BEEN REFORMED ACCORDINGLY, AND 12 MILLION RIYALS WERE SAVED IN THE CENTRAL SECURITY UNITS ALONG, ACCORDING TO THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR. WHAT THIS MEANS IS VERY BIG CUT IN PAY AND OTHER PLANNED EXPENDITURES OF SOME OFFICERS AND UNITS. IN CASE OF DHAMAR UNIT -- WHICH COMMANDED BY PRESIDENT'S BROTHER -- POLITICAL CIST IS PROBABLY ACCEPTABLE, BUT OTHER UNITS ARE HEADED BY MEN WHOSE ALLEGIANCE TO HAMDI IS BASED IN IMPORTANT PART ON PROSPECT THEIR OWN AND THEIR UNIT'S WELL-BEING, AND MODERNIZATION.

COMMENT: WE STILL THINK HAMDI IN STRONG POSITION. GOVERNMENT IN SANAA HAS NEVER CONTROLLED ALL OF TERRITORY OF YEMEN, PARTICULARLY IN STRONG TRIBAL AREAS, BUT HAMDI APPEARS TO HAVE KEY CARDS IN GAME OF SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS: FOREIGN SUPPORT (ESPECIALLY FINANCIAL), GOOD CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT, AN ARMY WHICH CAN LOOK FOREARD TO MODERNIZATION, AND CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL REPUTATION FOR CONCERN WITH DEVELOPMENT. RANSOM

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